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Do increases in oil prices precede U.S. recessions?

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DO INCREASES IN OIL PRICES PRECEDE U.S. RECESSION?

By

Thanyalak Suthijindawong

A THESIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

In Applied Natural Resource Economics

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This thesis, “Do increases in oil prices precede U.S. recessions?” is hereby approved in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of
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Abstract

This thesis examines the relationship between oil prices and economic activity, and it attempts to address the question: do increases in oil prices (oil shocks) precede U.S. recessions? This paper also applied macroeconomics, either through the direct use of a macroeconomic point of view or using a combination of mathematical and statistical models. Two mathematical and statistical models are used to determine the ability of oil prices to predict recessions in the United States. First, using the binary cyclical (Bry-Boschan method) indicator procedure to test the turning point of oil prices compared with turning points in GDP finds that oil prices almost always turn five month before a recession, suggesting that an oil shock might occur before a recession. Second, the Granger causality test shows that oil prices change do Granger cause U.S. recessions, indicating that oil prices are a useful signal to indicate a U.S. recession. Finally, combining this analysis with the literature, there are several potential explanations that the spike in oil prices result in slower GDP growth and are a contributing factor to U.S. recessions.

Chapter 1 Introduction

The effect of an unfavorable oil shock on aggregate output has been the focus of economic research for a long time. Oil is one of the important inputs to an economy; changing or increasing oil prices has a large impact on an economy as a whole. Hamilton (1983) presented strong evidence indicating that an increase in oil prices has been one of the primary causes of recessions, which is a period in which economic activity declines for two or more consecutive quarters. Over the past few decades, ten out of eleven U.S. recessions were preceded by an increase in oil prices (oil shocks). The exception is the recession of 1960, as shown later in Figure 4.

Many economists continue to research oil price shocks including Kilian (2008c), Jones et al (2004), Brow and Yucel (2002), Mork and Hall (1980), and Rasche and Tatom (1977). The literature concludes that significant increases in oil prices (oil shocks) lead to slower GDP growth and was a contributing factor of U.S. recessions, higher unemployment, and increases in the cost of living. Since 1947, the United States has experienced eleven recessions, causing a drop in stock market prices, decreases in housing prices and high unemployment. Furthermore, there is some evidence that the effect of oil prices on the macroeconomy may not be linear; a negative effect of a sharp increase in oil prices is more outstanding than the positive effect of the same size of a decrease in oil prices.

This paper tests for a relationship between oil prices and economic activity, and it attempts to address the question: are increases in oil prices precede U.S. recessions? Since oil is an important input into the economy, an increase in oil prices will put great pressure on other prices. Moreover, a number of studies have tested and concluded that changes in oil prices and economic output may not just be a statistical coincidence and that these two events occur in the same time

period.¹ However, Lardic and Mignon (2006), Blanchard and Gali (2007), Segal (2007), and Katayama (2012) consider the oil price shock effect a less important source of macroeconomic fluctuations and speculate that the effect of oil shocks has decreased during the post-World War II period.

There are no studies that specifically focus on the oil shock effect in the most recent U.S. recession. What makes this paper different from previous studies is that it uses the Bry-Boschan method to examine the relationship between oil prices and U.S. recessions and finds that oil price shocks precede recessions. A series of contributions by Hamilton (1983, 1996, 2005, and 2009) has presented strong evidence that one of the main reasons for the recessions in the United States is due to an increase in oil prices.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews the previous studies on the relationship between the oil prices and U.S. recessions. Section 3 describes the data being used. Section 4 describes the methods used. Section 5 analyzes all the data using the various methods to describe the relationship between oil prices and U.S. recessions. Section 6 contains a conclusion of this paper's findings.

¹ Hamilton (1983), Burbidge and Harrison (1984), Gisser and Goodwin (1986), Daniel (1997), Carruth, Hooker, and Oswald (1998), and Hamilton (2003) etc.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

Energy, specifically oil, is one of the most important and crucial raw materials in the United States' economy. Oil products are generally used for different purposes such as transportation and heating. One of the largest consumers of petroleum in the United States is the transportation sector, including the transportation necessary for the supply and use of petroleum. Thus, the price of oil is one of the most important prices in the economy. The price of oil is widely used to indicate the value of other energy resources. For this reason many studies have been conducted to better understand the relationship between oil prices and macroeconomics, either through the direct use of a macroeconomic point of view or using a combination of mathematical and statistical models.² Many previous studies have concluded that oil prices have been a significant influence on U.S. economic activity. Therefore, significant increases in oil prices could be a contributing factor to U.S. recessions.

According to Hamilton (1996), an oil shock occurs when oil prices exceed its three years peak. Also, Hamilton (2003) identifies an oil shock to be equal to the difference between the current oil price and the maximum price in the past four or twelve quarters if the difference is positive and is equal to zero otherwise. Hamilton (1983 and 1985) describes the primary catalysts for oil price spikes to

² The literature on the relationship between a spike up in oil price and macroeconomic activity can be divided into two broad strands:

1. Examination of the direct affects of oil price increases on aggregate output such as Hamilton (1983, 1985, 1988, 1996, 2003, and 2005), Kilian (2005), Rogoff (2006), Rotemberg and Woodford (1996).
2. Examination of the direct and indirect effects arising from the central bank policy responses to the inflation caused by increasing oil prices such as Bohi (1989), Bernanke et al (1997), Hamilton and Herrera (2004).

include political disturbances such as the Suez Crisis, the Arab-Israel War, the Iranian Revolution, the Iran and Iraq War, and the Persian Gulf War. Moreover, oil shocks have, in the past, largely been the result of conflicts on the supply side. However, there was an exception with an oil shock that took place from 2007 to 2008. This oil shock occurred due to rapidly increasing energy consumption in both India and China, which has been growing at a 7% compounded annual rate over the last two decades (Hamilton 2009).

The macroeconomics of oil price shocks has had a long history that began with the first oil crises in 1973. Hamilton (1983) believes that all but one of the U.S. recessions since World War II has been preceded by an increase in the price of oil, except the recession of 1960.³ He also claims that the relationship between oil prices and the U.S. economy are systematic, in which oil price increases are followed by a decline in output, which causes a recession, three to four quarters later.⁴ Rotemberg and Woodford (1996) also show the results from a simulation in which a 10% increase in energy prices could lead to a 2.5% drop in output six quarters later.

However, the effect of oil shocks can also be asymmetric and can either increase or decrease the macroeconomy because the insecurity of oil prices can cause delays in business investments.⁵ Increases also encourage resource reallocation.⁶ When oil prices decline, they encourage the transfer of aggregate

³ Brown and Yucel (2002) indicate that increases in oil prices proceeded eight out of nine post WWII recessions in the U.S.

⁴ Rachel and Tatom (1997), Baily (1981), Jones, Leidy, and Paik (2004), and Wei (2003) also believe that oil shocks affect macroeconomic activity.

⁵ Bernanke (1983), Pindyck (1991), Hamilton (1996), Lee et al (1995), Mork (1989), Davis and Haaltiwanger (1998), and Ferderer (1996)

⁶ Lilien (1982), Hamilton (1988), Jones, Leiby, and Paik (2003), Loungani (1986)

channels (output, income, and wage) and allocate channels (labor and capital) to respond to the economic effects. Furthermore, there is some evidence that the effect of oil prices on the macroeconomy may not be linear; a negative effect of a spike up in oil prices is more outstanding than the positive effect of the same size of a decrease in oil prices.

There are many studies on the effect of oil price shocks.⁷ There are six transmission channels that affect the following variables when there are changes in oil prices, according to Brown and Yucel (2002). The first is a supply-side effect, which focuses on the direct impact on output due to the change in marginal production cost caused by oil price shock.⁸ Also, the supply – side effect causes a reduction in the accessibility of basic inputs to production, shifts in demand, monetary policy changes and adjustment costs. Second, the wealth transfer effect emphasizes the different marginal consumption rates of petrodollar and that of ordinary trade surpluses. The result of this effect is a shift in purchasing power from the oil import nations to oil export nations which reduces consumer demands in oil import nation and increase consumer demand in oil export nations. Third is the inflation effect, which looks at the relationship between domestic inflation and oil prices. An increase of the oil price increases the inflation rate, which will raise the cost of living. Fourth is the real balance effect which includes the change in money demand and monetary policy. If monetary policy fails to meet the growth of money demand, this would boost the interest rate, and slow economic growth. Fifth is sector adjustment, which is the adjustment cost of

⁷ Mork (1989), Lardic and Mignon (2006), Hooker (1996), and Blanchard and Gali (2010) find that the relationship between the oil price and macroeconomy is weakening. Davis and Haltiwanger (2001) also find evidence that the impact of oil price shocks on manufacturing employment growth is weaker in an extended sample including the late 1980s and the early 1990s.

⁸ See Rasche and Tatom (1977 and 1981), Barro (1984), and Brown and Yucel (1999)

changing the industrial structure, and is mainly used to explain the asymmetric impact of oil price shocks. Asymmetry in oil prices shocks is that a negative effect of a spike up in oil prices is more outstanding than the positive effect of the same size of a decrease in oil prices. Finally, the unexpected effect focuses on the uncertainty of oil prices and its impact on economic activity. It can cause insecurity and delays in business investments and encourage resource reallocation. Bernanke et al. (1997) concluded that about two-thirds of the quarters with decreases in output after an oil shock can be attributed to monetary policy tightening, specifically when the increase in oil prices is followed by rise in the federal fund rate.

Nordhus (2007) finds that oil prices can directly affect output through an increase in inflation and tight monetary policy as a response of the central bank. This will cause output to drop and can affect the consumer by increasing consumption taxes. Bernanke (1983) claims that oil shocks may disrupt the purchase of more expensive consumer and investment goods, which may impact the economy in the short-run. A major oil price shock can cause people to be uncertain about the future and reduce spending on items such as cars, housing, appliances, and investments.

However, there are several pieces of research that indicate that the macroeconomic effect of oil price shocks have decreased since 1970. Blanchard and Gali (2007) find that there are at least four reasons for the decreased affect on inflation and macroeconomic activity such including prices, wages, output, and employment, following the recent spike in oil prices. In the general market, the first reason is due to more choice of the alternate energy causing the lack of effect on the oil prices and decline in volatility. Secondly, the lack of resources has caused a smaller share of oil production which cause the production to be controlled by a small group of people allowing them to dictate the market based

on their group of strategy. The third reason is the increase of resources that have been reallocated, which created more flexibility in labor market. Finally, the improvement in monetary policies helped to improve the economy as a whole. However, Segal (2007) presents several arguments as to why high oil prices in the past several years have not slowed the economy. He says that the importance of oil prices is often overemphasized. In addition, high oil prices have not led to monetary tightening in the past few years as they are no longer considered when calculating core inflation. Moreover, Katayama (2012) also mentions three reasons that have reduced the effects of oil price shocks. They include high competition in transportation, an increase in energy efficiency, and oil prices have less effect on the people lives because currently, people have the option of alternative energy to choose from.

However, Barsky and Kilian (2002) argue that recessions may be partly exogenous due to the change in monetary policy, which occurred at the same time as the oil prices shock. Bernanke, Gertler, and Watson (1997) argue that U.S. recessions happened due to the rise in interest rates, resulting from the Federal Reserve's endogenous response to higher inflation, which was a result of the oil shock.

There is further discussion on the impact that oil shocks have had on the United States economy. Hamilton (2009) concludes that oil shocks have historically contributed to past U.S. recessions and he also claims that if there had been no oil shock, in 2007-2008 the U.S. economy would have grown slowly, but it would not have fallen into a recession. Thus, Blanchard–Gali support Hamilton in that the oil shock in the 2007-2008 periods led to the recession in 2009. Gisser and Goodwin (1986) found that oil prices have had further impacts on the macroeconomic indicators, exceeding the effect of monetary and fiscal policy.

Several studies have tested and concluded that co-movement of oil price and economic output may not be just a statistical coincidence. The scholars who support this hypothesis include Rasche and Tatom (1977, 1981), Burbidge and Harrison (1984), Santini (1985, 1994), Gisser and Goodwin (1986), Rotemberg and Woodford (1996), Daniel (1997), Raymond and Rich (1997), Carruth, Hooker, and Oswald (1998).

Finally, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the recent U.S. economy was in the longest and worst recession since World War II, and was 18 months from December 2007 to June 2009. Hamilton (2009) and Kilian (2009) note that at the beginning of July 2008 the oil price reached 145 dollars per barrel, which is the highest price in history and they claim it significantly contributed to the recession in 2009. Carstensen, Elstner, and Paula (2011) also claim that the increase in oil price in 2007 to 2008 caused a 0.8 percent reduction of German GDP in 2009 and contributed to the recession in 2009. Moreover, Hamilton (2009) said “the evidence to me is persuasive that, if there had there been no oil shock, we would have described the U.S. economy from 2007 to 2008 as growing slowly, but not in a recession”. He also claims that the collapse in automobile purchases, deteriorating consumer sentiment, and slowdown in overall consumption spending, was caused by the oil shock and was one of the contributing factors causing the recent U.S. recession in 2009. Appendix E also summarizes the studies that related to the research topic.

Chapter 3 Data description

This research analyses the relationships between oil prices and U.S. economic activity using United States data. The sample period of the analysis and model is from January 1949 to December 2012 on a quarterly basis. This data includes the first post-World War II period, the recession in 1949, which is the earliest data that the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) has in the record of U.S. Business Cycle expansions and contractions. This study uses real gross domestic product (real GDP) and real oil prices from the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis. Also, it uses the quarterly growth in real GDP from the website Economagic. Oil price is measured by the producer price index for oil prices (WPU 0561 Oil Price Index) using monthly data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This paper converts the monthly data to quarterly data by averaging every three months of data into a single quarterly period. Further, this study also uses business cycle expansions and contractions identified by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). This is the standard or “official” designation of U.S. business cycles.

Chapter 4 Methods of Analysis

This study uses a dynamic time series-based regression of the historical data to evaluate the hypothesis of Hamilton (2005). This is done using the same set of data as used by Hamilton. Regressions are one of the most popular and wide spread methods used to analyze the relationship between oil prices and U.S. economic activity.⁹ The regression was run using a lagged change in quarterly GDP growth rate and a lagged logarithmic change in quarterly nominal oil price (WPU 0561 Oil Price Index) from 1949II to 2005II. The specific data used can be found in appendix A and the result of this regression can be found in appendix B. These regression results will be used in an attempt to duplicate the results from Hamilton in order to predict the relationship between oil prices and U.S. recessions.

Moreover, the regression method will be used to examine and predict the relationships between the oil prices and U.S. recessions in the Granger Causality tests. The eight periods of lagged changes in quarterly GDP growth rate and the eight period of lagged logarithmic change in nominal oil price but from 1949 II to 2012 II also are used. The result of this Granger Causality test can be found in appendix C.

The Bry- Boschan method is used to identify the turning points in oil price and GDP cycle, which no other research papers have used to predict the relationship between oil prices and U.S. recessions. This paper tries to find a consistent relationship over time with movements and changes in oil prices and U.S. recessions by using the Bry- Boschan method to identify the turning point of

⁹ Hamilton (1983), Hamilton (2003), Hamilton (2005), Hooker (1996), and Mork (1989)

these cycles. After the turning points are found, they will be used to compare the GDP peaks and troughs with those of oil prices

Correlation tests are used to examine the oil prices cycle and GDP cycle, to find the correlations between these. This correlation tests the relationship between the WPU oil price index cycles from the Bry – Boschan procedure and the NBER U.S. cycle. Also, this paper uses the correlation test with the oil prices and U.S. GDP to examine how they are correlating over time.

Chapter 5 Analysis

5.1 U.S. Recession trends

A recession is a period in which economic activity declines in two or more consecutive quarters. In the United States, most organizations such as universities, academics, economics, policy makers, and businesses use the recessions identified by the Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research. The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) defines an economic recession as: "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-sales". There are many different factors of economic activity that work together to contribute to recessions. These include investment, government spending, net export activity, and consumption. Moreover, these factors are driven by other things such as corporate investment decisions, interest rates, demographics, employment levels and skills, household savings rates, and government policies. Over the past decades since 1947, the United States has experienced eleven recessions which caused a drop in stock market prices, decreases in housing prices, high unemployment, low economic growth or high inflation. A recession can last from eight months through twenty-four months. Figure 1 shows the U.S. GDP and the recessions as bars, in which GDP is one factor that can indicate a recession. No single indicator can predict or indicate a recession. It depends on many different factors, including GDP, employment, investment spending, capacity utilization, and household income, and others.

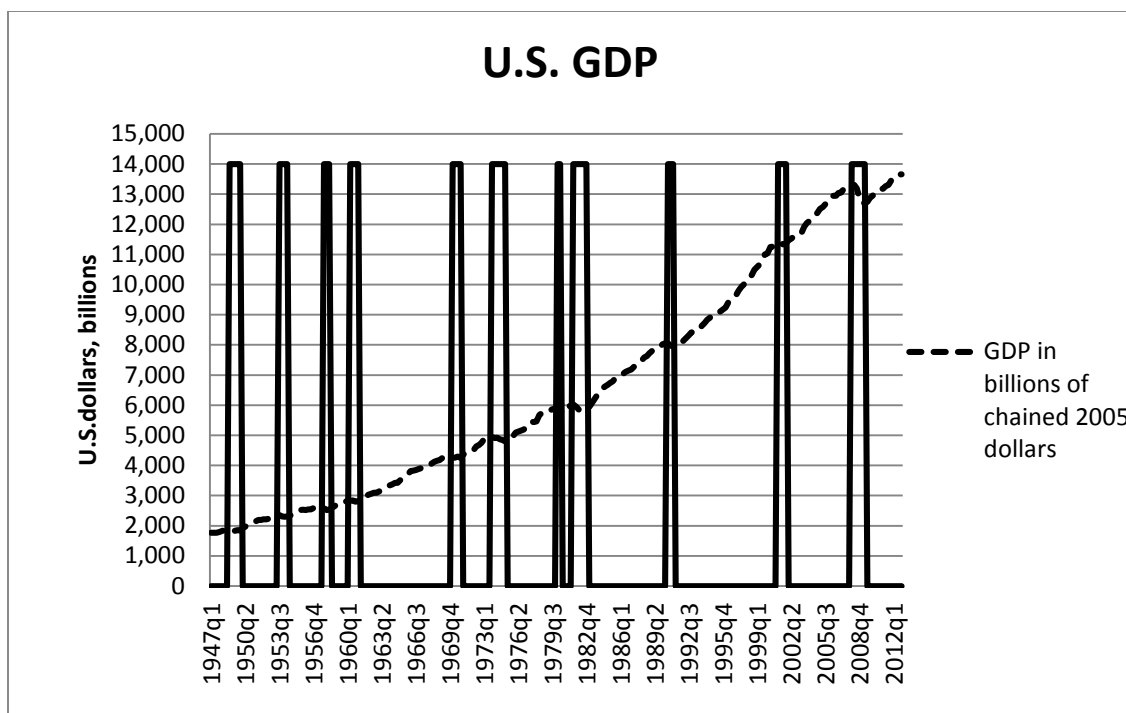


Figure 1: GDP in billions of chained 2005 dollars and U.S. recessions

Note: Recessions identified by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and U.S. GDP from Economagic.

The recent U.S. recession was the longest and most profound recession since World War II and was 18 months from December 2007 to June 2009, which is shown in Table 1. Table 1 also shows all eleven U.S. recessions since World War II compared with the percentage change in GDP, consumption, and investment. The collapse in GDP and investment in the 2009 U.S. recession was the most intense of the post-war period. However, the cumulative percent change in consumer consumption was not the deepest of the post-war period

Table 1: Economic indicators during post- War recessions

Dates	Duration (months)	Cumulative Percent Change		
		GDP	Consumption	Investment
Nov. 1948 - Oct. 1949	11	-1.60%	3.40%	-10.20%
July 1953 - May 1954	10	-2.6	-0.5	-3.4
Aug. 1957 - April 1958	8	-3.7	-1.3	-8
April 1960 - Feb. 1961	10	-1.6	1	-5.1
Dec. 1969 - Nov. 1970	11	-0.6	2.5	-2.6
Nov. 1973 - March 1975	16	-2.8	-0.7	-18.4
Jan. 1980 - July 1980	6	-2.2	-1.2	-8.1
July 1981 - Nov. 1982	16	-2.7	0.1	-9.3
July 1990 - Mar. 1991	8	-1.4	-0.7	-7.2
March 2001 - Nov. 2001	8	-0.3	1.2	-3.2
Dec. 2007 - June 2009	18	-4.1	-2.3	-23.4

Note: Data comes from National Bureau of Economic Research based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

5.2 Oil price trends in the U.S

Oil prices, like other commodity prices, experience wide swings in times of shortage or oversupply, as shown in the Figure 2. Correspondingly, oil prices are sensitive, hard to predict, and have many short-term fluctuations based on demand and supply, such as the increase in the oil prices as a result of the Middle East supply interruption during the Yom Kippur War and the later crises in Iran and Iraq. Before OPEC was established in 1960, the price of oil was low, ranging between \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel. Prior to OPEC, the Texas Railroad Commission, attempted to control oil prices through limitations on production. OPEC replaced the Texas Railroad Commission in the 1970's by monitoring the production capacity and attempting to limit production. Nowadays OPEC is the only organization that tries to control oil prices, since OPEC is the major oil supplier throughout the world. The price will fluctuate according to supply and demand in

the market with OPEC attempting to keep prices in a certain range. The volatile history of OPEC has varied between restricting supply to increase prices and trying to prevent them from falling. Currently, the leadership of Saudi Arabia involves a deliberate strategy to stabilize prices by adjusting production. Their strategy has not had the ability to smooth out price changes, as shown by the large changes after 2005. The long run demand responses to increases in oil prices were more important than the short run responses.

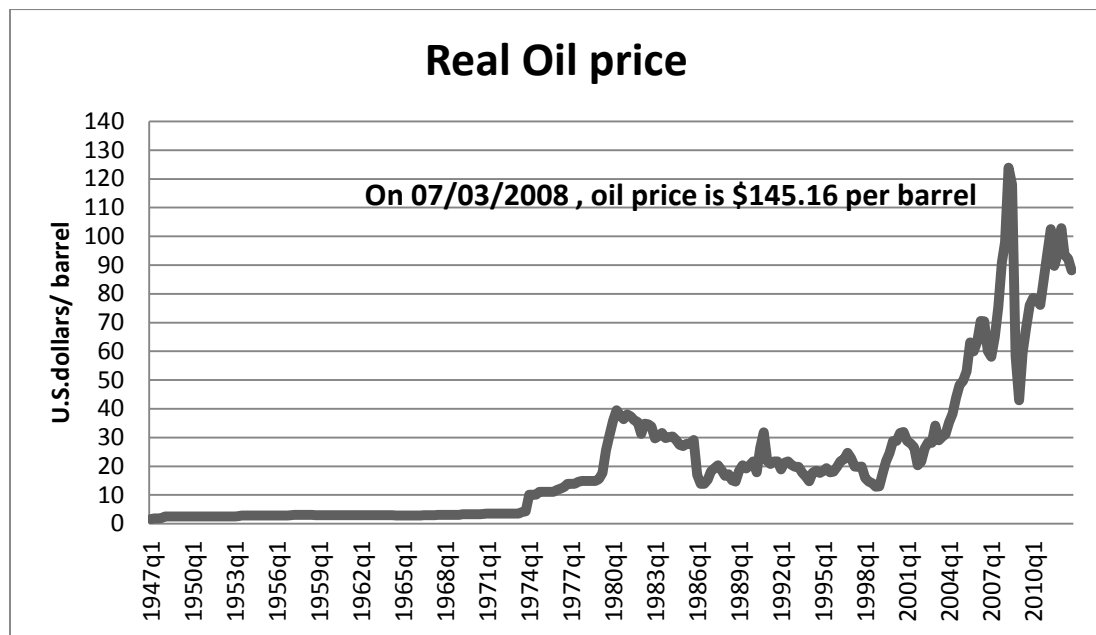


Figure 2: Real oil prices

Note: Oil prices from the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

5.3 Oil consumption trends

Oil is one of the most important, fundamental and crucial raw materials in the United State economy. Oil products are used for many different purposes, such as transportation, which is the largest consumer of petroleum in the United States. Figure 3 shows petroleum consumption in the United States from 1949 to 2011

(obtained from the Information Administration (EIA)). The total petroleum consumption in the U.S. has been increasing in the past few decades, except for the significant decrease in the late 1970s and the early 1980s. In 1970, U.S. petroleum production reached its peak; after that, any increase in petroleum consumption has been met largely by imports from other countries because the United States cannot produce enough petroleum to supply increases in the demand for oil. The transportation sector consumes more than half of U.S. petroleum.

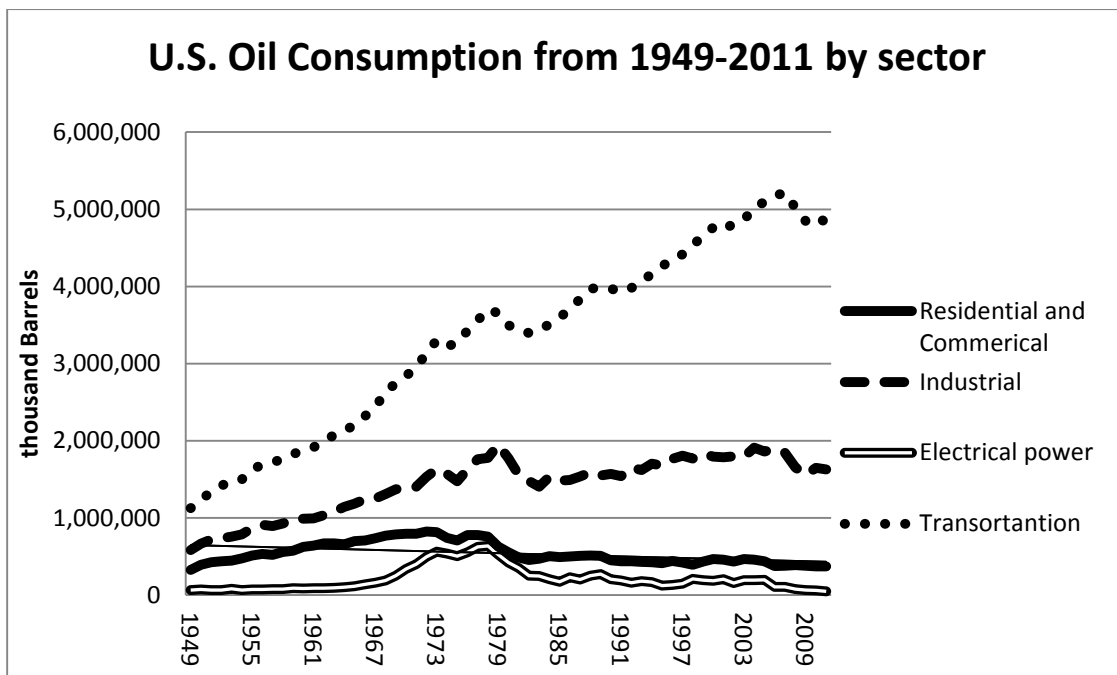


Figure 3: U.S. oil consumption by sector from 1949 -2011

Note: U.S. oil consumption by sector from U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

5.4 Oil Shocks

An oil shock is a large positive increase in oil prices. According to Hamilton (2003), an oil shock occurs when oil price exceeds the three years peak shown in Figure 4. Table 2 also shows the date whenever oil shock occurs. Oil

shocks are calculated using the previous three years compared with oil prices at that time. If the oil prices are lower when compared with previous three years, this indicates no oil shock has happened. However, if oil prices were higher than any price in the previous three years, an oil shock would take place. Oil shocks can happen from demand increases which contribute significantly to the volatility in price. A supply shock (oil production and reserve shock) can also create an oil price shock, which affects current and future oil production. Moreover, oil shocks affect the economy through consumer spending on other goods; as well as a firm's spending for new investment projects. Oil price increases raise the input cost of production and thus reduce production. Oil shocks also have an effect on the rate of inflation. Greenspan (2004) determined that the results of oil price shocks have a negative effect on economic activity and employment by causing a firm to face higher costs of production and a rise in the inflation rate. Figure 6 compares oil prices, oil shocks and recessions to identify the oil shocks from 1947 to 2012 on a quarterly basis. However, several oil shocks have occurred without causing a recession but most of them do. Moreover, ten out of eleven U.S. recessions have been preceded by an oil shock, with the exception of the recession in 1960 which was not associated with an oil shock. This fact has led to a general acceptance that oil price shocks are a likely cause of recessions.

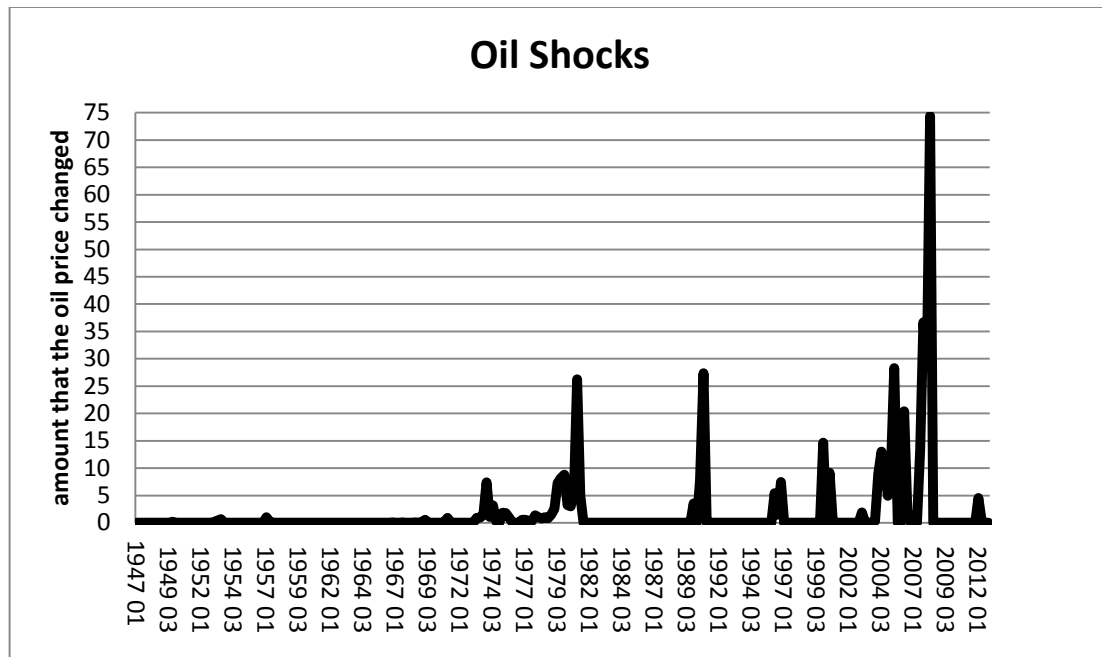


Figure 4: Oil shocks

Note: Oil shocks identified using the Hamilton (2003) method. An oil shock occurs when the current oil price exceeds the maximum price in the previous three years this measure the positive difference.

Table 2: Dates of oil shocks

Date of oil shock
1953 03
1957 01
1969 02
1971 01
1974 01
1975 02
1980 01
1981 01
1990 04
1996 04
2000 01
2004 03
2005 03
2008 02
2012 01

5.5 U.S. Recessions and oil prices trends

In a series of contributions, Hamilton (1983, 1996, 2005, and 2009) presented strong evidence indicating that increases in oil prices have been one of the primary causes of recessions in the United States. Over the past few decades, ten out of eleven U.S. recessions followed an increase in oil prices (an oil shock), except for the recession of 1960, as shown in Figure 4. Hamilton (1983 and 1985) mentioned that the primary catalysts for oil spikes were military conflicts such as the Suez Crisis, the Arab-Israel War, the Iranian Revolution, the Iran and Iraq War, and the Persian Gulf War. The largest percentage change in oil prices in most events like these has been due to OPEC or military conflicts in Middle East.

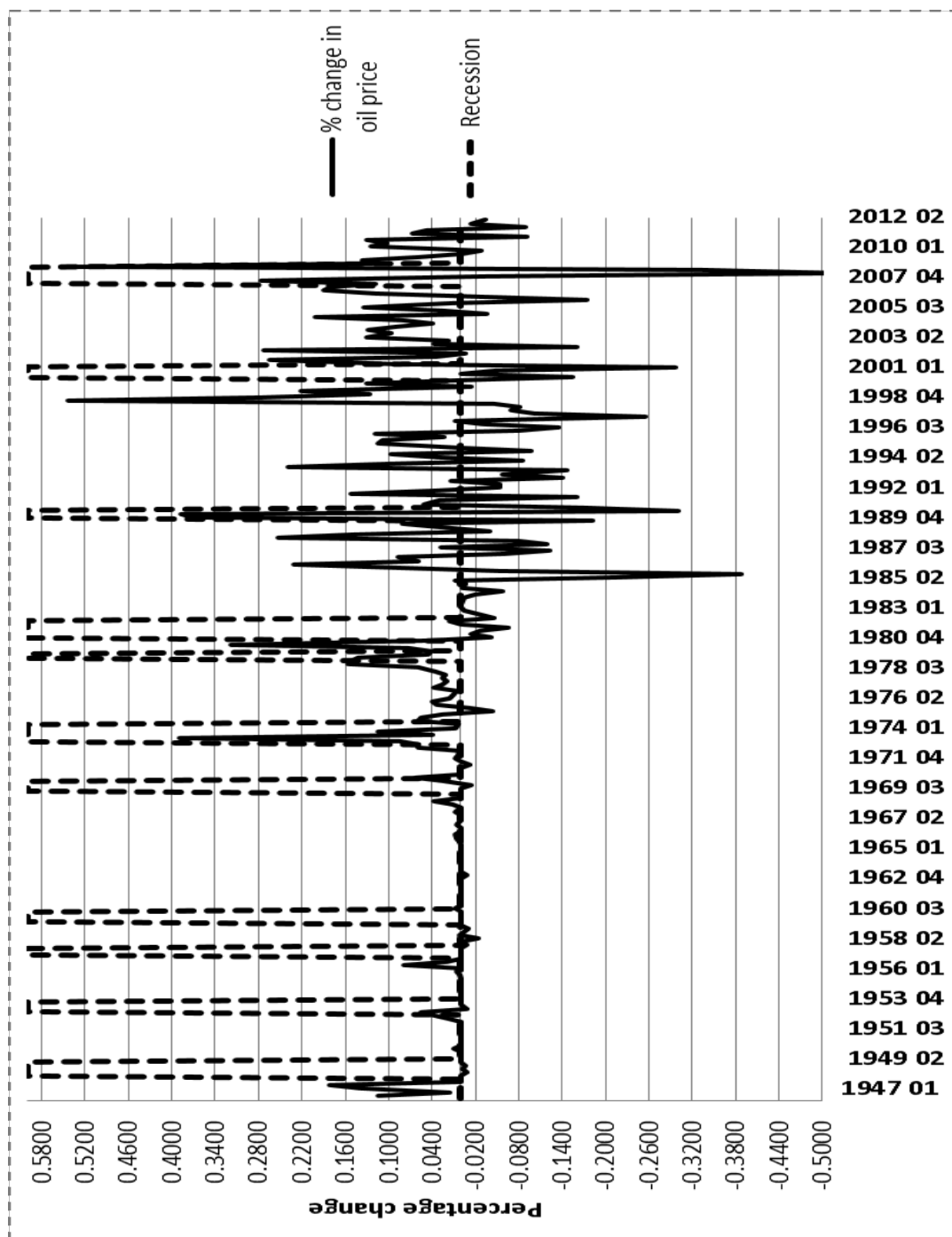


Figure 5 : Percentage change in producer prices index for oil price and U. S. Recessions

Note: identify recession by National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and oil price by U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Oil shock is a major factor that contributed to the collapse in automobile purchases, a slowdown in overall consumption spending, and deteriorating consumer sentiment in recessions. The result from an oil shock can cause low income and higher unemployment, which would also depress housing demand. For example Hamilton (2008) shows that a 1% reduction in real GDP growth translates into a 2.6% decrease in the demand for new houses.

During the first oil price increase (1949) within the data set, the rapid increase in oil price resulted from the fact that previous investments in production and transportation were inadequate to meet postwar needs. The second oil price increase (1953) took place because of Iranian nationalization¹⁰ and a strike by oil, coal, and steel workers in U.S. which resulted in an oil shortage, causing an increase in oil price. The third oil price increase (1957) was a result of the Suez Crisis¹¹. The fourth recession (1960) is the most interesting because it was not derived from a spike in oil prices. Oil prices actually decreased during the 1960 U.S. recession. The fifth oil price increase (1970) preceded the secular decline in U.S. Reserves along with the strike of oil workers and the Libyan cutback in production (Libyan civil war) resulted in an upturn in oil prices. The sixth oil price increase (1974) resulted from stagnating U.S. production, the Yom Kipper War and the OPEC embargo, causing oil prices to quadruple. The seventh oil price increase (1980) follows the Iranian revolution which led to a significance upsurge in oil prices. The eighth oil price increase (1981) followed the Iranian revolution that led into the subsequent Iran-Iraq War, which in turn led to a significant

¹⁰ Iranian nationalization is a political event that occurred in Iran in which the Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh was overthrown. This situation caused Iran to explode with various problems that led to a long-term deterioration of Iran – United States relations. Iranian nationalization also interrupted the production of oil since Iran was one of the most important countries to supply oil to the market.

¹¹ In order to trade between Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the U.S., these countries would normally use the canal, which directly links the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean. However, France and Britain wanted to control the canal, not only for commercial shipping but also for colonial interests. The Suez Crisis was lasted for two years from 1956-1957.

upsurge in oil prices. The ninth oil price increase (1990) was a result of the Persian Gulf War from the Iraq invasion of Kuwait. The tenth oil price increase (2000) occurred as OPEC cut oil production, triggering oil prices to go above average. The most recent oil price increase (2008) took place because of rapidly growing demand and tight capacity, crude outages in Nigeria, Iraq, and the North Sea, causing the oil prices to rise in June 2008 to the highest in history. All of these oil prices increases were followed by U.S. recessions.

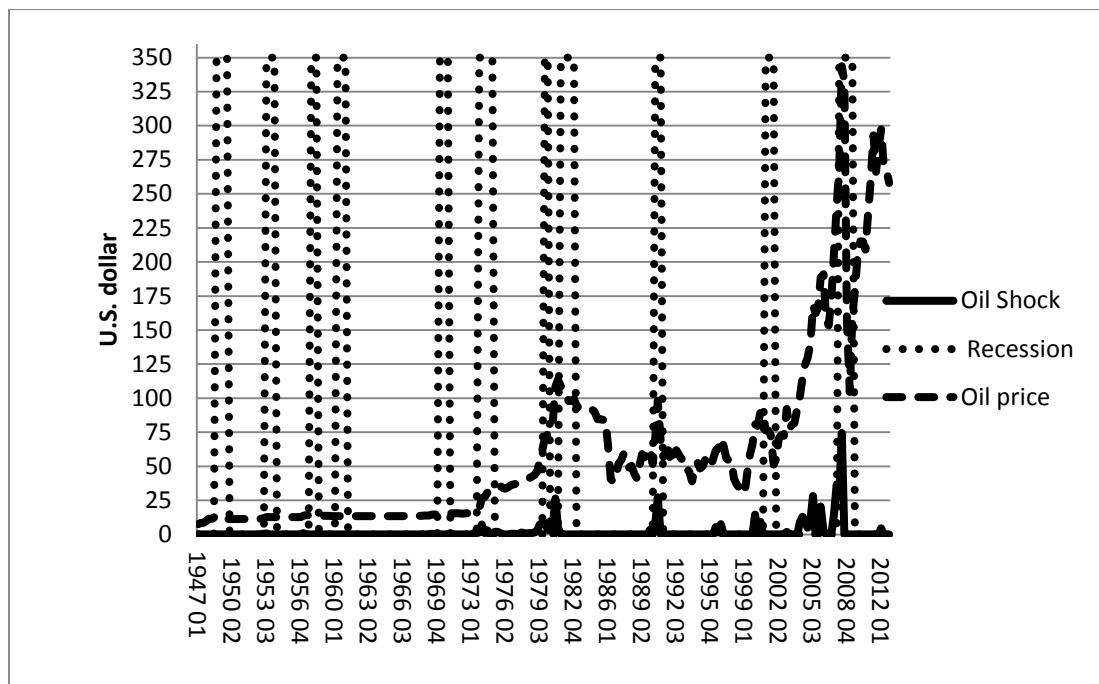


Figure 6: Producer price index for oil prices, U.S. recessions, and oil shocks

Note: Recessions identified by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), oil shocks by using the Hamilton (2003) measure, and oil price from the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis.

5.6 The Bry-Boschan method

Roberts (2009) describes the method for identifying the turning points in a data series using the Bry- Boschan method. The process of identifying turning points using the Bry-Boschan method consists of six steps:

1. Replace any point of data that are more than 3.5 times the standard deviation of difference the original data and data that has been smoothed using a Spencer curve.
2. Smooth the adjusted data using a 12 month centered moving average smoothing then find highs and lows in this smoothed data over period from 12 months before to 5 months after each data point. Furthermore, enforce (deleted turning point if the rule is violated) the rule that peaks and troughs must alternate. The dates of the troughs and peaks are determined as TP1.
3. Compute a second Spencer curve of the adjusted data and determine the highs and lows (as TP2) using a ± 5 month interval. Refine TP1 by selecting the highs and lows that are within the vicinity of turning points in a smoothed data series TP2 over a ± 5 month interval. Also, enforce the rules that peaks and troughs must alternate and cycles must have duration of at least 15 months. TP3 is the refined set of turning points.
4. Determine the months of cyclical dominance and use this to compute a centered moving average of the adjusted data using this period to find turning points as TP4. The TP5 results from the turning points identified in TP3 comparing against TP4 over ± 5 month interval and enforcing the rule that troughs and peaks must alternate.
5. Identify actual highs and lows in the original unadjusted data that are within a ± 5 month interval of the turning points in TP5 and enforce the rules that peaks and troughs must alternate and troughs must have a lesser magnitude

than peak. Only these dates of highs and lows in the original series are selected as turning points.

6. Lastly, using the original data series, the following steps are iterated until no further changes to the turning points are made: enforce the rules that full cycles must have a duration of at least 15 months and peak and troughs must alternate; ensure that no turning points are closer than 5 months from the beginning or end of the data series and the first or last peak (trough) is higher (lower) than the first or last data point, and make sure that each phase has a duration of at least 6 months.

This process is used to determine the turning points in oil prices. The sample period of the analysis and model is from January 1947 to February 2013 on a monthly basis. Table 3 shows the results of identifying turning points in oil prices by using the Bry-Boschan method. Oil price peaks show the point in time when the highest oil prices are reached and oil prices begin to drop. Also, oil price troughs show the point where the lowest oil prices are and where the price will increase. Table 4 shows the results of turning points of GDP by using the Bry-Boschan. GDPs' peaks show the point where the economy expansion ends and economy contraction begins. Additionally, the GDPs' troughs show the point where an economic contraction ends and cycles will start over with another economic expansion. Cycles consist of expansions, contractions, and full cycles, as well as the amplitude of price change during these periods. A peak is the end of the expansion or boom phase of the oil price and must follow a trough, which is the end of the contraction phase of oil prices.

Table 3: Turning points in oil price identified using the Bry- Boschan method

Oil price (WPU oil price index cycles)	
Peak	Trough
January, 1948	May, 1950
October, 1950	Septmber, 1952
June, 1953	January, 1956
February, 1957	November, 1960
April, 1961	December, 1962
May, 1963	January, 1966
April, 1969	July, 1970
January, 1971	March, 1972
February, 1981	May, 1982
October, 1982	August, 1986
August, 1987	November, 1988
October, 1990	February, 1994
July, 1994	July, 1995
January, 1997	December, 1998
November, 2000	December, 2001
July, 2006	January, 2007
July, 2008	January, 2009
April, 2011	June, 2012

Table 4: Turning points in GDP identified using the Bry- Boschan method

GDP	
Peak	Trough
November, 1948	October, 1949
July, 1953	May, 1954
August, 1957	April, 1958
*April, 1960	February, 1961
December, 1969	November, 1970
**November, 1973	March, 1975
**January, 1980	July, 1980
July, 1981	November, 1982
July, 1990	March, 1991
March, 2001	November, 2001
December, 2007	June, 2009

* Not preceded by an oil price peak

** Not preceded by oil price peak, by cleaning occurred during an oil price run up

5.7 Turning point behavior of oil prices

This paper focuses on testing the correlation between the oil prices and U.S. recessions. First, let us look at the pattern of U.S. recessions and oil prices so as to roughly describe their relationship, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7 shows the turning points in oil prices found using the Bry-Boschan procedure compared with the oil price and U.S. NBER reference cycles. Moreover, Figure 7 shows only ten oil price cycles but it shows eleven U.S. GDP cycles. Most of the oil prices cycles (dotted line) found by using Bry- Bosch method peak before U.S. recessions but some cycles might peak at the same time as with U.S. recessions. As shown in Figure 7, the oil price cycles often give early warning indication of GDP turning points, suggesting that oil prices have been a reliable indicator of GDP recessions. Figure 7 shows that oil price often expands before GDP recessions.

Table 5 compares the turning points of oil price peaks against GDP peaks. For example, oil price peaks ten months before the November 1948 GDP peak and oil price peaks one month before July 1953 peak. Thus, the last row of Table 5 shows the average number of months the oil prices turn before and after the GDP. As shown, the average number of months that oil prices lead U.S.GDP is five months. They often give early warning indicators of the GDP turning points, suggesting that oil prices peaks might be a reliable indicator of GDP recessions.

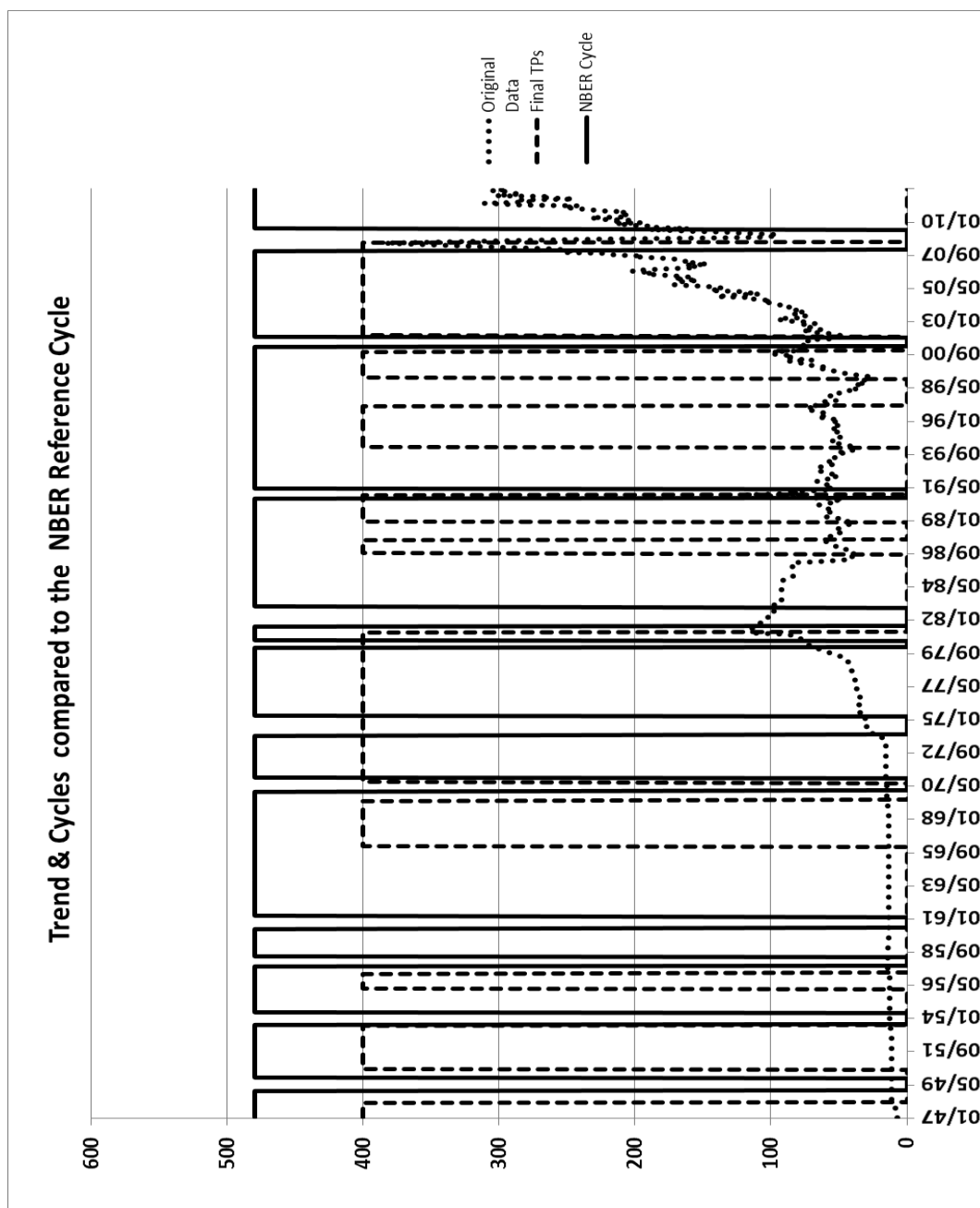


Figure 7: Producer price index for oil price, U.S. recessions from NBER, and oil price cycles

Note: The dashed line identifies the turning points of the business cycles (GDP) from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER); the solid line represents the oil prices, (WPU 0561 Oil price Index) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the circular dotted line indicates the oil price cycle found by using the Bry- Boschan method.

Table 5: The result of turning point comparison by using the Bry – Boschan method to identity GDP and compared with the oil prices peaks

GDP peaks	Number of months that oil price peaks lead (-), or lag (+) the GDP peak.
GDP	Oil prices
November 1948 peaks	-10
July 1953 peaks	-1
August 1957 peaks	-6
April 1960 peaks	*12
December 1969 peaks	-8
November 1973 peaks	** -34
January 1980 peaks	**13
July 1981 peaks	-5
July 1990 peaks	3
March 2001 peaks	-4
December 2007 peaks	-17
Average	-5.18

Table 6 compares the turning point of oil prices troughs against the GDP troughs. For example, oil prices turn seven months after the October 1949 troughs and oil prices turn twenty months after the May 1954 trough. Thus, the last row of Table 6 shows the average number of months the oil prices turn up after the GDP starts to recover. As shown, the average number of months that oil prices troughs lag the GDP troughs is seven months.

Table 6: The result of turning point comparison by Bry - Boschan method (GDP troughs) compared with the oil prices troughs

GDP troughs	Number of months that oil price troughs lead (-), or lag (+) the GDP trough
GDP	Oil prices
October 1949 troughs	7
May 1954 troughs	20
April 1958 troughs	31
February 1961 troughs	22
November 1970 troughs	-4
March 1975 troughs	-36
July 1980 troughs	22
November 1982 troughs	6
March 1991 troughs	35
November 2001 troughs	1
June 2009 troughs	-29
Average	6.82

5.8 Correlation between real U.S. GDP and real oil prices

A correlation coefficient indicates the strength of the linear relationship between two variables. The values in Table 8 indicate the level of correlation between various lags of the variables. Table 8 also shows all strong positive correlation between the U.S. GDP from Ecomagic and oil prices come from the EIA in the form of quarterly data. These correlations are all positive which mean that U.S. GDP is moving in the same direction as oil prices.

Table 7: The correlation between GDP and oil price

	Oil price	oil price (t-1)	oil price (t-2)	oil price (t-3)	oil price (t-4)
GDP	0.819	0.813	0.808	0.802	0.799
GDP (t-1)	0.821	0.817	0.811	0.806	0.802
GDP (t-2)	0.822	0.819	0.814	0.809	0.805
GDP (t-3)	0.824	0.820	0.817	0.813	0.809
GDP (t-4)	0.825	0.822	0.818	0.815	0.812

5.9 Correlation between WPU oil price index cycles and NBER U.S. cycle

The values in Table 8 indicate the level of correlation between the following combinations of variables. The r values in this report indicate the level of correlation between the combinations of different variables. Table 8 shows the weak positive correlation between the WPU oil price index cycle and NBER U.S. cycles, which mean that the WPU oil price index cycles are moving in the same direction at the NBER U.S. cycles. Even though the WPU oil price index cycle is

positive, the relationship is very weak. Also, the NBER US cycles have a higher correlation when the WPU Oil Price Index cycle moves back in different time periods. Moreover, in order for the r numbers to be statistically significant, the r numbers need to be greater than 0.12, but Table 8 show no sign of significant correlation between the WPU oil price index cycles and NBER U.S. cycles.

Table 8: Correlation between the WPU oil price index cycles and NBER US cycles

	WPU Oil Price Index cycles	WPU Oil Price Index cycles (t-1)	WPU Oil Price Index cycles (t-2)	WPU Oil Price Index cycles (t-3)	WPU Oil Price Index cycles (t-4)
NBER US cycles	0.076	0.083	0.090	0.097	0.097
NBER US cycles (t-1)	0.069	0.076	0.083	0.090	0.097
NBER US cycles (t-2)	0.055	0.069	0.076	0.083	0.090
NBER US cycles (t-3)	0.055	0.055	0.069	0.076	0.083
NBER US cycles (t-4)	0.048	0.055	0.055	0.069	0.076

5.10 Reproduction of the Hamilton model

Regression is one of methods that have been used to test for a significant relationship between oil prices and a recession. Hamilton used a regression of lagged changes in GDP growth rates explained by lagged logarithmic change in nominal oil prices from 1949II to 2005II. He found that the coefficient on the fourth lag of oil prices is negative and highly statistically significant as shown in below:

Model 1: Hamilton

$$\text{GDP} = 0.69 + 0.28 \text{ GDP}_{t-1} + 0.13 \text{ GDP}_{t-2} - 0.07 \text{ GDP}_{t-3} - 0.12 \text{ GDP}_{t-4}$$

$$(0.11) \quad (0.07) \quad (0.07) \quad (0.07) \quad (0.07)$$

$$\text{T-score} \quad (4) \quad (1.86) \quad (1) \quad (1.71)$$

$$- 0.003 \text{ Oil}_{t-1} - 0.006 \text{ Oil}_{t-2} - 0.002 \text{ Oil}_{t-3} - 0.015 \text{ Oil}_{t-4} \quad (1)$$

$$(0.006) \quad (0.006) \quad (0.006) \quad (0.006)$$

$$\text{T-score} \quad (0.5) \quad (1) \quad (0.33) \quad (2.5)$$

Where GDP = GDP growth rates

Oil = nominal oil prices

Hamilton did not report the statics (N, R-Square, Adjusted R –Square, F-static) result behind the regression expect the equation that shows.

Model 2: My result

$$\text{GDP} = 2.76 + 0.30 \text{ GDP}_{t-1} + 0.14 \text{ GDP}_{t-2} - 0.099 \text{ GDP}_{t-3} - 0.097 \text{ GDP}_{t-4}$$

$$(6.38) \quad (4.41) \quad (2.01) \quad (-1.42) \quad (-1.45)$$

$$\text{T-score} \quad (0.68) \quad (0.07) \quad (0.07) \quad (0.067)$$

$$- 1.23 \text{ Oil}_{t-1} - 4.14 \text{ Oil}_{t-2} + 1.08 \text{ Oil}_{t-3} - 4.45 \text{ Oil}_{t-4} \quad (2)$$

$$(-0.45) \quad (-1.5) \quad (0.39) \quad (-1.63)$$

$$\text{T-score} \quad (2.73) \quad (2.76) \quad (2.77) \quad (2.73)$$

N = 226, R² = 0.162, Adjusted R² = 0.131, F-statically = 5.226

However, I used the same data and the same method to attempt to duplicate the results from Hamilton but could not obtain his results.

The result from Hamilton shows that all the GDP variables are significant and none of oil variables are significant except the fourth lag of oil prices. Also, the majority of the oil prices variables have a negative sign which show that oil prices and GDP move in opposite direction. My results shows that all GDP variables are not significant and all oil prices variables are significant. Also, most of the oil prices variables have a negative sign, except for the third lag of oil prices that has a positive sign. Except for the third lag in oil prices, we can conclude that the direction of oil price moves proceeded and are in the opposite direction with GDP. This result supports the idea that oil shocks preceded recessions. The results from Model 1 come from Hamilton. Model 2 are my results from using the same set of data and time frame. It is not known why Hamilton's result cannot be duplicated

5.11 Granger Causality tests

Regression analysis typically cannot prove causality between oil prices and U.S. recessions, but regression can give evidence of a relationship. The Granger causality test determines if one time series variable consistently and predictably changes before another variable, which can be used to indicate causality. Granger causality is a useful instrument for forecasting purpose and shows which variable precedes another.¹² These tests are useful to show if an oil price change precedes recessions. There are a number of different tests for Granger causality, but this paper uses eight lags of oil price and eight lags of GDP.

¹² Hamilton (1983, 1996, 2003 and 2003) conducted the Granger causality test of whether oil price uncertainty has a significant effect on output.

If an oil price change Granger causes a U.S. recession, I would run a simple regression for the coefficients with the formula below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GDP} = & \text{B}_0 + \text{B}_1\text{GDP}_{t-1} + \text{B}_2\text{GDP}_{t-2} + \text{B}_3\text{GDP}_{t-3} + \text{B}_4\text{GDP}_{t-4} + \text{B}_5\text{GDP}_{t-5} + \text{B}_6\text{GDP}_{t-6} \\ & + \text{B}_7\text{GDP}_{t-7} + \text{B}_8\text{GDP}_{t-8} - \alpha_1\text{Oil}_{t-1} - \alpha_2\text{Oil}_{t-2} - \alpha_3\text{Oil}_{t-3} - \alpha_4\text{Oil}_{t-4} - \alpha_5\text{Oil}_{t-5} \\ & - \alpha_6\text{Oil}_{t-6} - \alpha_7\text{Oil}_{t-7} - \alpha_8\text{Oil}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

From the regression, and then testing for the null hypothesis (H_0), which is when the α s are jointly equal to zero. The F-test is used for this joint hypothesis test. If we reject the null hypothesis, it indicates that oil price change Granger causes recessions in the U.S. This procedure can be reversed by making the oil price the dependent variable and GDP the independent variable to establish if GDP Granger causes oil prices fluctuations, using the formula below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Oil} = & \text{B}_0 + \text{B}_1\text{Oil}_{t-1} + \text{B}_2\text{Oil}_{t-2} + \text{B}_3\text{Oil}_{t-3} + \text{B}_4\text{Oil}_{t-4} + \text{B}_5\text{Oil}_{t-5} + \text{B}_6\text{Oil}_{t-6} + \text{B}_7\text{Oil}_{t-7} \\ & + \text{B}_8\text{Oil}_{t-8} - \alpha_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} - \alpha_2 \text{GDP}_{t-2} - \alpha_3 \text{GDP}_{t-3} - \alpha_4 \text{GDP}_{t-4} - \alpha_5 \text{GDP}_{t-5} - \\ & \alpha_6 \text{GDP}_{t-6} - \alpha_7 \text{GDP}_{t-7} - \alpha_8 \text{GDP}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

Table 9 presents the F-statistics of the Granger causality test for each of the equations in the sample period from January 1949 to December 2012 on a quarterly basis, which appendix D shows F- statistics calculation. The significance of the equation as a whole is determined by verifying that the F-statistic is greater than F-critical. Also, if the F-statistic is greater than F-critical then I am able to identify that the independent variable is Granger causing the dependent variable to move.

Table 9: Granger Causality F-statistics (5% percent level of significance)

Sample	1949II -2012IV	Oil prices ---> Recession	Recession --->Oil prices
F-statistics		1.95	0.056
F-critical		1.94	1.94
Conclusion		Oil prices do Granger causes U.S. recession	U.S. recessions do not Granger causes oil prices

Table 9 concludes that oil prices change do Granger causes U.S. recession but U.S. recessions do not Granger cause oil prices changes. Based on the evidence on the Granger Causality test, we can conclude that the U.S. recessions are caused by oil prices increases. The specific information used can be found in Appendix C.

Chapter 6 Conclusion

This paper tests for a relationship between oil price changes and economic activity, and it attempts to address the question: do increases in oil prices (oil shocks) precede a recession in the U.S.? In order to answer this question several tests were made. The binary cyclical indicator tested the turning point of oil prices compared with those of GDP, finding that oil prices almost always increase an average of five months before a recession. This suggests that an oil shock might occur before a recession. It also indicates that increases in oil prices may be reliable indicators of the U.S. having a recession.

The correlation test shows that WPU oil price index cycles and NBER U.S. cycles are weakly positively correlated, which means that the WPU oil price index cycles move in the same direction as the NBER US cycles. Even though the WPU oil price index cycle is positive, the relationship is very weak and is somewhat insignificant. The NBER US cycles have a higher correlation when the WPU Oil Price Index cycles move back in different time period. The correlation test also is an indication of a strong positive correlation between the U.S. GDP, and oil prices. This means that the U.S. GDP often moves in the same direction as oil prices.

The Granger causality test shows that oil prices Granger cause the U.S. recessions, indicating that the oil price is a useful tool to indicate the U.S. cycle. While, the result of the Granger causality shows that the U.S. recession just occurred at the same time as the oil price increase.

Combining this analysis from the literature, there are several other issues: explanations that the spike in oil prices is one major cause of recession. There is some evidence that the effect of oil price changes on the macroeconomy may not be linear; a negative effect of a spike up in oil prices is more pronounced than the

positive effect of the same size of a decrease in oil prices. Also, the literature concludes that significant increases in oil prices (oil shocks) result in slower GDP growth and are a contributing factor of U.S. recessions, a higher unemployment rate, and increases in the cost of living. Some economists argue that oil shocks are not just coincidentally happening at the same time as recessions. Furthermore, all but one of the U.S. recessions since World War II has been preceded by an increase in the price of oil, the exception being the minor recession of 1960. Therefore, it is worthwhile to continue investigating this relationship between oil prices and the U.S. economic activity by reproducing Hamilton's results. We should also try to come with difference methods beside what has been shown in the research to predict the relationship between oil prices and U.S. recessions.

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Appendix A: Data

		1=expansion 0= recession			1=expansion 0= recession
	Oil price From U.S. DCB of Economic Analysis	WPU Oil Price Index cycles from Bry- Boschan	GDP in billions of chained 2005 dollars from U.S. DCB of Economic Analysis	GDP Growth Rate from Economagic	Cycle Dates from NBER
1949 01	11.40	0	1770.7	-5.45	0
1949 02	11.37	0	1768	-1.45	0
1949 03	11.30	0	1766.5	4.56	0
1949 04	11.30	0	1793.3	-3.69	1
1950 01	11.30	0	1821.8	17.15	1
1950 02	11.30	1	1855.3	12.75	1
1950 03	11.30	1	1865.3	16.60	1
1950 04	11.40	0	1868.2	7.23	1
1951 01	11.40	0	1842.2	5.14	1
1951 02	11.40	0	1835.5	6.81	1
1951 03	11.40	0	1856.1	8.21	1
1951 04	11.40	0	1838.7	0.68	1
1952 01	11.40	0	1913	4.09	1
1952 02	11.40	0	1971.2	0.43	1
1952 03	11.40	0	2048.4	2.71	1
1952 04	11.40	1	2084.4	13.87	1
1953 01	11.60	1	2110.7	7.70	1
1953 02	12.03	1	2145.7	3.06	1
1953 03	12.70	0	2188.5	-2.41	0
1953 04	12.60	0	2192.2	-6.19	0
1954 01	12.60	0	2214.3	-1.89	0
1954 02	12.60	0	2216.7	0.50	0
1954 03	12.60	0	2231.6	4.58	1
1954 04	12.60	0	2305.3	8.26	1
1955 01	12.60	0	2348.4	12.01	1
1955 02	12.60	0	2366.2	6.80	1

1955 03	12.60	0	2351.8	5.44	1
1955 04	12.60	0	2314.6	2.25	1
1956 01	12.60	1	2303.5	-1.80	1
1956 02	12.63	1	2306.4	3.17	1
1956 03	12.70	1	2332.4	-0.50	1
1956 04	12.73	1	2379.1	6.71	1
1957 01	13.73	1	2447.7	2.48	1
1957 02	14.00	0	2488.1	-0.97	1
1957 03	14.00	0	2521.4	3.91	1
1957 04	14.00	0	2535.5	-4.15	0
1958 01	14.00	0	2523.9	-10.39	0
1958 02	14.00	0	2543.8	2.47	0
1958 03	13.90	0	2540.6	9.72	1
1958 04	13.90	0	2582.1	9.65	1
1959 01	13.57	0	2597.9	8.33	1
1959 02	13.60	0	2591.7	10.50	1
1959 03	13.53	0	2616.6	-0.47	1
1959 04	13.40	0	2589.1	1.41	1
1960 01	13.40	0	2519	9.28	1
1960 02	13.40	0	2534.5	-1.86	0
1960 03	13.40	0	2593.9	0.65	0
1960 04	13.40	0	2654.3	-5.03	0
1961 01	13.40	1	2708	2.40	0
1961 02	13.50	1	2776.4	7.69	1
1961 03	13.50	0	2773.1	6.62	1
1961 04	13.50	0	2782.8	8.39	1
1962 01	13.50	0	2845.3	7.37	1
1962 02	13.50	0	2832	4.49	1
1962 03	13.50	0	2836.6	3.75	1
1962 04	13.50	0	2800.2	0.99	1
1963 01	13.50	1	2816.9	5.33	1
1963 02	13.50	1	2869.6	5.10	1
1963 03	13.50	0	2915.9	7.75	1
1963 04	13.40	0	2975.3	3.08	1
1964 01	13.40	0	3028.7	9.27	1

1964 02	13.40	0	3062.1	4.68	1
1964 03	13.40	0	3090.4	5.55	1
1964 04	13.40	0	3097.9	1.11	1
1965 01	13.40	0	3138.4	10.19	1
1965 02	13.40	0	3177.7	5.54	1
1965 03	13.40	0	3237.6	8.36	1
1965 04	13.40	0	3262.2	10.00	1
1966 01	13.40	1	3335.4	10.18	1
1966 02	13.43	1	3373.7	1.34	1
1966 03	13.50	1	3419.5	2.66	1
1966 04	13.60	1	3429	3.28	1
1967 01	13.60	1	3513.3	3.57	1
1967 02	13.60	1	3560.9	0.09	1
1967 03	13.67	1	3633.2	3.22	1
1967 04	13.70	1	3720.8	3.09	1
1968 01	13.70	1	3812.2	8.50	1
1968 02	13.70	1	3824.9	6.97	1
1968 03	13.80	1	3850	2.77	1
1968 04	13.80	1	3881.2	1.74	1
1969 01	13.97	1	3915.4	6.09	1
1969 02	14.50	0	3916.2	1.17	1
1969 03	14.50	0	3947.5	2.55	1
1969 04	14.50	0	3977.6	-1.87	1
1970 01	14.50	0	4059.5	-0.63	0
1970 02	14.50	0	4128.5	0.74	0
1970 03	14.30	1	4156.7	3.61	0
1970 04	14.67	1	4174.7	-4.18	0
1971 01	15.60	0	4240.5	11.50	1
1971 02	15.60	0	4252.8	2.29	1
1971 03	15.60	0	4279.7	3.23	1
1971 04	15.60	0	4259.6	1.12	1
1972 01	15.40	0	4252.9	7.34	1
1972 02	15.40	1	4260.7	9.83	1
1972 03	15.53	1	4298.6	3.89	1
1972 04	15.60	1	4253	6.76	1

1973 01	15.63	1	4370.3	10.63	1
1973 02	16.57	1	4395.1	4.71	1
1973 03	17.53	1	4430.2	-2.12	1
1973 04	19.03	1	4442.5	3.87	1
1974 01	26.43	1	4521.9	-3.46	0
1974 02	27.50	1	4629.1	1.03	0
1974 03	30.67	1	4673.5	-3.89	0
1974 04	30.90	1	4750.5	-1.57	0
1975 01	31.00	1	4872	-4.78	0
1975 02	32.83	1	4928.4	3.09	1
1975 03	34.63	1	4902.1	6.91	1
1975 04	35.53	1	4948.8	5.33	1
1976 01	34.00	1	4905.4	9.40	1
1976 02	33.57	1	4918	3.05	1
1976 03	34.70	1	4869.4	1.97	1
1976 04	36.10	1	4850.2	2.94	1
1977 01	36.67	1	4791.2	4.72	1
1977 02	37.03	1	4827.8	8.19	1
1977 03	37.27	1	4909.1	7.35	1
1977 04	38.63	1	4973.3	-0.09	1
1978 01	39.63	1	5086.3	1.37	1
1978 02	40.40	1	5124.6	16.69	1
1978 03	41.40	1	5149.7	3.98	1
1978 04	42.27	1	5187.1	5.40	1
1979 01	43.73	1	5247.3	0.67	1
1979 02	46.30	1	5351.6	0.37	1
1979 03	53.57	1	5447.3	2.91	1
1979 04	61.70	1	5446.1	1.11	1
1980 01	70.50	1	5464.7	1.29	0
1980 02	73.77	0	5679.7	-7.95	0
1980 03	76.80	0	5735.4	-0.74	0
1980 04	82.40	0	5811.3	7.60	0
1981 01	108.63	0	5821	8.58	1
1981 02	113.57	0	5826.4	-3.16	1
1981 03	108.77	0	5868.3	4.95	1

1981 04	107.33	0	5884.5	-4.89	1
1982 01	104.63	0	5903.4	-6.41	1
1982 02	97.90	0	5782.4	2.18	1
1982 03	97.97	1	5771.7	-1.53	1
1982 04	99.50	1	5878.4	0.31	1
1983 01	95.03	0	6000.6	5.06	1
1983 02	92.43	0	5952.7	9.30	1
1983 03	92.10	0	6025	8.13	1
1983 04	92.07	0	5950	8.53	1
1984 01	92.10	0	5852.3	7.99	1
1984 02	91.87	0	5884	7.08	1
1984 03	91.53	0	5861.4	3.94	1
1984 04	89.77	0	5866	3.30	1
1985 01	84.63	0	5938.9	3.82	1
1985 02	84.50	0	6072.4	3.43	1
1985 03	84.00	0	6192.2	6.40	1
1985 04	84.70	0	6320.2	3.07	1
1986 01	66.40	0	6442.8	3.90	1
1986 02	40.67	0	6554	1.62	1
1986 03	38.57	0	6617.7	3.91	1
1986 04	42.00	1	6671.6	1.95	1
1987 01	51.70	1	6734.5	2.23	1
1987 02	54.77	1	6791.5	4.32	1
1987 03	59.57	1	6897.6	3.51	1
1987 04	55.87	0	6950	7.02	1
1988 01	49.00	0	7016.8	2.08	1
1988 02	50.40	0	7045	5.24	1
1988 03	44.43	0	7112.9	2.08	1
1988 04	40.93	0	7147.3	5.45	1
1989 01	51.30	1	7186.9	3.09	1
1989 02	58.90	1	7263.3	3.03	1
1989 03	56.53	1	7326.3	3.21	1
1989 04	58.33	1	7451.7	0.88	1
1990 01	63.10	1	7490.2	4.24	1
1990 02	51.67	1	7586.4	1.60	1

1990 03	70.83	1	7625.6	-0.01	0
1990 04	98.20	0	7727.4	-3.46	0
1991 01	68.73	0	7799.9	-1.92	0
1991 02	57.10	0	7858.3	2.73	1
1991 03	60.03	0	7920.6	1.70	1
1991 04	61.80	0	7937.9	1.58	1
1992 01	51.93	0	8020.8	4.46	1
1992 02	59.83	0	8052.7	4.32	1
1992 03	61.83	0	8052.6	4.19	1
1992 04	58.57	0	7982	4.27	1
1993 01	55.40	0	7943.4	0.74	1
1993 02	56.17	0	7997	2.58	1
1993 03	48.33	0	8030.7	2.12	1
1993 04	45.57	0	8062.2	5.39	1
1994 01	38.90	0	8150.7	3.95	1
1994 02	48.17	1	8237.3	5.59	1
1994 03	52.97	1	8322.3	2.60	1
1994 04	48.50	0	8409.8	4.52	1
1995 01	50.00	0	8425.3	0.99	1
1995 02	54.87	0	8479.2	0.86	1
1995 03	49.60	0	8523.8	3.40	1
1995 04	49.83	1	8636.4	2.82	1
1996 01	55.50	1	8720.5	2.77	1
1996 02	61.57	1	8839.8	7.10	1
1996 03	63.03	1	8896.7	3.53	1
1996 04	70.47	1	8995.5	4.44	1
1997 01	64.73	0	9017.6	3.11	1
1997 02	56.03	0	9037	6.06	1
1997 03	54.37	0	9112.9	5.12	1
1997 04	54.83	0	9176.4	3.10	1
1998 01	40.80	0	9239.3	3.83	1
1998 02	36.67	0	9399	3.65	1
1998 03	34.10	0	9480.8	5.38	1
1998 04	31.33	0	9584.3	7.10	1
1999 01	29.90	1	9658	3.61	1

1999 02	46.13	1	9801.2	3.16	1
1999 03	58.80	1	9924.2	5.19	1
1999 04	66.20	1	10000.3	7.38	1
2000 01	80.87	1	10094.8	1.05	1
2000 02	79.67	1	10185.6	8.03	0
2000 03	90.00	1	10320	0.34	0
2000 04	90.23	1	10498.6	2.39	0
2001 01	76.40	0	10592.1	-1.31	1
2001 02	76.40	0	10674.9	2.64	1
2001 03	72.80	0	10810.7	-1.10	1
2001 04	51.20	0	11004.8	1.41	1
2002 01	55.70	1	11033.6	3.46	1
2002 02	70.47	1	11248.8	2.14	1
2002 03	72.87	1	11258.3	2.05	1
2002 04	72.40	1	11325	0.14	1
2003 01	92.13	1	11287.8	1.68	1
2003 02	77.47	1	11361.7	3.43	1
2003 03	80.40	1	11330.4	6.75	1
2003 04	81.80	1	11370	3.67	1
2004 01	92.47	1	11467.1	2.66	1
2004 02	101.37	1	11528.1	2.60	1
2004 03	114.37	1	11586.6	3.01	1
2004 04	124.53	1	11590.6	3.31	1
2005 01	129.50	1	11638.9	4.19	1
2005 02	140.10	1	11737.5	1.79	1
2005 03	168.37	1	11930.7	3.21	1
2005 04	162.27	1	12038.6	2.07	1
2006 01	166.47	1	12117.9	5.15	1
2006 02	188.73	1	12195.9	1.63	1
2006 03	190.97	1	12286.7	0.05	1
2006 04	157.63	0	12387.2	2.75	1
2007 01	153.47	0	12515	0.54	1
2007 02	171.70	1	12570.7	3.65	1
2007 03	204.27	1	12670.5	2.95	1
2007 04	240.90	1	12735.6	1.70	1

2008 01	269.40	1	12896.4	-1.77	0
2008 02	343.80	1	12948.7	1.32	0
2008 03	332.47	1	12950.4	-3.66	0
2008 04	157.00	0	13038.4	-8.89	0
2009 01	104.47	0	13056.1	-5.25	0
2009 02	159.73	1	13173.6	-0.31	0
2009 03	179.17	1	13269.8	1.45	1
2009 04	203.50	1	13326	4.03	1
2010 01	215.23	1	13266.8	2.34	1
2010 02	214.90	1	13310.5	2.24	1
2010 03	209.00	1	13186.9	2.60	1
2010 04	235.00	1	12883.5	2.39	1
2011 01	259.03	1	12711	0.08	1
2011 02	292.93	1	12701	2.48	1
2011 03	266.10	1	12746.7	1.28	1
2011 04	283.77	0	12873.1	4.09	1
2012 01	297.47	0	12947.6	1.96	1
2012 02	270.73	0	13019.6	1.25	1
2012 03	267.07	1	13103.5	3.11	1
2012 04	257.97	1	13181.2	0.38	1

Appendix B: The Hamilton model

Table 10: Statistical summary output result for the Hamilton model

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.40192833
R Square	0.16154638
Adjusted R Square	0.13063565
Standard Error	3.86477517
Observations	226

ANOVA

	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	8	624.491324	78.0614155	5.226223176	5.46125E-06
Residual	217	3241.217719	14.9364871		
Total	225	3865.709043			

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>
Intercept	2.763348213	0.432982613	6.382122818	1.04242E-09
GDP (t-1)	0.296374147	0.067199419	4.410367678	1.62424E-05
GDP (t-2)	0.140377092	0.069777979	2.011767798	0.045480934
GDP (t-3)	-0.09897456	0.069660556	-1.42081208	0.156806729
GDP (t-4)	-0.097184286	0.06685279	-1.453705757	0.147472608
Oil price (t-1)	-1.232531558	2.717961697	-0.453476427	0.650658862
Oil price (t-2)	-4.142147221	2.768380833	-1.496234612	0.136045502
Oil price (t-3)	1.076322451	2.762926541	0.389558837	0.697244842
Oil price (t-4)	-4.446496615	2.726438146	-1.630881163	0.104365896

Appendix C: Granger Causality Test

Granger causality test is a technique to test if one time series variable consistently and predictably changes before another variable.

Equation 1

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GDP} = & B_0 + B_1\text{GDP}_{t-1} + B_2\text{GDP}_{t-2} + B_3\text{GDP}_{t-3} + B_4\text{GDP}_{t-4} + B_5\text{GDP}_{t-5} + B_6\text{GDP}_{t-6} + \\ & B_7\text{GDP}_{t-7} + B_8\text{GDP}_{t-8} - \alpha_1\text{Oil}_{t-1} - \alpha_2\text{Oil}_{t-2} - \alpha_3\text{Oil}_{t-3} - \alpha_4\text{Oil}_{t-4} - \alpha_5\text{Oil}_{t-5} - \alpha_6\text{Oil}_{t-6} \\ & - \alpha_7\text{Oil}_{t-7} - \alpha_8\text{Oil}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

Table 11: Statistical summary output on equation 1

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.459583861
R Square	0.211217325
Adjusted R Square	0.157966174
Standard Error	3.719900935
Observations	254

	df	SS	MS	F	Significance F
Regression	16	878.1794501	54.88622	3.966437	1.20028E-06
Residual	237	3279.526123	13.83766		
Total	253	4157.705573			

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept	2.472364711	0.500867705	4.936163	1.5E-06
GDP (t-1)	0.315637794	0.064469263	4.895942	1.81E-06
GDP (t-2)	0.139522865	0.066636676	2.093785	0.037342
GDP (t-3)	-0.079954202	0.067468621	-1.18506	0.237182
GDP (t-4)	-0.047430455	0.067416007	-0.70355	0.482404
GDP (t-5)	-0.072758827	0.067021442	-1.08561	0.278757
GDP (t-6)	0.032381099	0.066954614	0.483628	0.629097

GDP (t-7)	-0.006648086	0.066364735	-0.10017	0.92029
GDP (t-8)	0.0139683	0.062918501	0.222006	0.8245
Oil price (t-1)	-2.298725295	2.090315369	-1.0997	0.272577
Oil price (t-2)	-3.149371601	2.147764207	-1.46635	0.143879
Oil price (t-3)	-1.477504809	2.183697189	-0.67661	0.499315
Oil price (t-4)	-3.256705611	2.170778463	-1.50025	0.134881
Oil price (t-5)	0.20090958	2.180158733	0.092154	0.926654
Oil price (t-6)	0.194952372	2.188532797	0.089079	0.929094
Oil price (t-7)	-4.966199813	2.152093443	-2.30761	0.021883
Oil price (t-8)	4.182670212	2.118887146	1.973994	0.049544

Equation 2

$$\text{GDP} = \text{B}_0 + \text{B}_1\text{GDP}_{t-1} + \text{B}_2\text{GDP}_{t-2} + \text{B}_3\text{GDP}_{t-3} + \text{B}_4\text{GDP}_{t-4} + \text{B}_5\text{GDP}_{t-5} + \text{B}_6\text{GDP}_{t-6} \\ + \text{B}_7\text{GDP}_{t-7} + \text{B}_8\text{GDP}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t$$

Table 12: Statistical summary output on equation 2

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.398916681
R Square	0.159134518
Adjusted R Square	0.131677686
Standard Error	3.777522728
Observations	254

	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	8	661.634473	82.70430912	5.795807681	8.880E-07
Residual	245	3496.0711	14.26967796		
Total	253	4157.705573			

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>
Intercept	2.335036666	0.474820513	4.917724917	1.60582E-06
GDP (t-1)	0.322496097	0.063957685	5.042335351	8.95018E-07

GDP (t-2)	0.140974751	0.066854029	2.108694927	0.035986296
GDP (t-3)	-0.059645313	0.067429716	-0.884555297	0.377263776
GDP (t-4)	-0.056169425	0.067313788	-0.834441597	0.404845065
GDP (t-5)	-0.081234916	0.067251458	-1.207927953	0.228239678
GDP (t-6)	0.034028601	0.067295522	0.505659211	0.613550534
GDP (t-7)	-0.010173559	0.06673089	-0.152456511	0.878952366
GDP (t-8)	-2.18942E-05	0.063193693	-0.000346462	0.999723846

Equation 3

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Oil} = & B_0 + B_1\text{Oil}_{t-1} + B_2\text{Oil}_{t-2} + B_3\text{Oil}_{t-3} + B_4\text{Oil}_{t-4} + B_5\text{Oil}_{t-5} + B_6\text{Oil}_{t-6} + B_7\text{Oil}_{t-7} \\ & + B_8\text{Oil}_{t-8} - \alpha_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} - \alpha_2 \text{GDP}_{t-2} - \alpha_3 \text{GDP}_{t-3} - \alpha_4 \text{GDP}_{t-4} - \alpha_5 \text{GDP}_{t-5} \\ & - \alpha_6 \text{GDP}_{t-6} - \alpha_7 \text{GDP}_{t-7} - \alpha_8 \text{GDP}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

Table 13: Statistical summary output on equation 3

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.33156925
R Square	0.109938168
Adjusted R Square	0.049849605
Standard Error	0.115703818
Observations	254

	df	SS	MS	F	Significance F
Regression	16	0.39189709	0.024494	1.829602	0.028275945
Residual	237	3.172807495	0.013387		
Total	253	3.564704585			

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept	0.009052397	0.015578992	0.581064	0.561749
Oil price (t-1)	0.238404894	0.06501718	3.666798	0.000303

Oil price (t-2)	-0.167971076	0.066804069	-2.51438	0.012588
Oil price (t-3)	0.060898924	0.067921728	0.896604	0.37084
Oil price (t-4)	-0.092711728	0.067519904	-1.3731	0.171018
Oil price (t-5)	-0.112673029	0.067811668	-1.66156	0.097924
Oil price (t-6)	0.038141997	0.068072135	0.560317	0.575792
Oil price (t-7)	0.025461711	0.066938725	0.380373	0.704009
Oil price (t-8)	-0.019030187	0.065905877	-0.28875	0.773027
GDP (t-1)	0.001591673	0.002005252	0.793752	0.428134
GDP (t-2)	-0.002659799	0.002072668	-1.28327	0.20065
GDP (t-3)	0.00018026	0.002098544	0.085898	0.93162
GDP (t-4)	0.001606013	0.002096908	0.765896	0.4445
GDP (t-5)	0.000964366	0.002084635	0.462607	0.644071
GDP (t-6)	-0.001773354	0.002082557	-0.85153	0.395336
GDP (t-7)	0.002330982	0.002064209	1.129237	0.259939
GDP (t-8)	-0.000668776	0.001957017	-0.34173	0.732855

Equation 4

$$\text{Oil} = B_0 + B_1\text{Oil}_{t-1} + B_2\text{Oil}_{t-2} + B_3\text{Oil}_{t-3} + B_4\text{Oil}_{t-4} + B_5\text{Oil}_{t-5} + B_6\text{Oil}_{t-6} + B_7\text{Oil}_{t-7} \\ + B_8\text{Oil}_{t-8} + \varepsilon_t$$

Table 14: Statistical summary output on equation 4

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.305666057
R Square	0.093431738
Adjusted R Square	0.063829509
Standard Error	0.114849467
Observations	254

	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	8	0.333056545	0.041632068	3.156239966	0.002022927
Residual	245	3.23164804	0.0131904		
Total	253	3.564704585			

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>
Intercept	0.01453078	0.007639411	1.902081048	0.058333374
Oil price (t-1)	0.231597986	0.063954908	3.621269955	0.000356246
Oil price (t-2)	-0.170707179	0.065637937	-2.600739566	0.009867888
Oil price (t-3)	0.06101506	0.066564132	0.916635713	0.360234953
Oil price (t-4)	-0.084897634	0.066208474	-1.28227747	0.200957279
Oil price (t-5)	-0.125918637	0.066197998	-1.902151741	0.058324089
Oil price (t-6)	0.050561135	0.06632007	0.762380601	0.446566226
Oil price (t-7)	0.017863095	0.065613871	0.272245713	0.785662391
Oil price (t-8)	-0.02947327	0.063885039	-0.461348545	0.644957882

Appendix D: F-statistics calculation

$$F_c = \frac{(SSR_r - SSR_{ur}) / M}{SSR_{ur} / (N-K-1)}$$

Where SSR_r = residual sum of squares from the constrained equation

SSR_{ur} = residual sum of squares from the unconstrained equation

M = the number of constrained (or the number of coefficients being jointly tested)

N = the number of observation

K = the number of independence variables in the unconstrained equation.

The F-statistics was found using the Granger Causality test for oil prices cause of recessions. For the unconstrained equation, equation 1 is used from appendix C to find SSR_{ur} which calculate to be 3279.52. The constrained equation, equation 2 is used from appendix C to find SSR_r which calculate to be 3496.07. M is equal to eight because in equation 2 have the eight lagged of change values for the quarterly GDP growth rate. K is equal 16 because in equation 1, there are eight lagged of change values for the quarterly GDP growth rate and the eight lagged of change value for the logarithmic change in oil price.

$$\begin{aligned} F_c &= \frac{(3496.07 - 3279.53) / 8}{3279.53 / (254 - 16 - 1)} \\ &= 1.95 \end{aligned}$$

The F-statistics was found using the Granger Causality test for recessions cause of oil prices. For the unconstrained equation, equation 3 is used from appendix C to find SSR_{ur} which calculate to be 3.17. The constrained equation, equation 4 is used from appendix C to find SSR_r which calculate to be 3.23. M is

equal to eight because in equation 4 have the eight lagged of change value for the logarithmic change in oil price. K is equal 16 because in equation 3, there are eight lagged of change values for the quarterly GDP growth rate and the eight lagged of change value for the logarithmic change in oil price.

$$F_c = \frac{(3.23 - 3.17) / 8}{3.17 / (254 - 16 - 1)}$$

$$= 0.054$$

Appendix E: Overview of the studies cited and their principal results

Table 15: Overview of the studies cited and their principal results

Authors and period studied	Objective / General idea	Results
Hamilton (1983) 1948-1980	Illustrate that the correlation between oil shock and the US recessions is not static coincidence	The result of increases in oil price caused a decline of output within 3-4 quarters later. Also, it will take 1 to 2 years for the economy to begin to recover the output growth.
Gisser, Goodwin (1986) 1961-1982	Replicate Hamilton's results in 1983, compare with relationship between oil prices and output before or after 1973.	Monetary and fiscal policy cannot only just explain the result of increased oil price due to economic output. The effect on the oil prices that affects the economy have not changed since 1973.
Loungani (1986) 1947-1982 Quarterly employment data for 28 industries	Purposed that all the interruptions that occurred in the global oil market caused unemployment through sector rotation.	Labor reallocation process is the main reason for the increase in oil prices in 1950s and 1970s.
Mork (1989) 1948-1988	Replicate Hamilton's result in 1983 of a negative correlation between increases in oil prices and the output growth and adjust the data unit 1988.	Analyses of Hamilton's result are still correct when the oil market collapse of the 1980s. Oil prices are still considered part of reason why the market collapses.

		<p>Show stronger evidence of the negative correlation between increases in oil prices and output than Hamilton.</p> <p>In 1980, economic output growth slowed because of the asymmetry effect changing in oil prices</p>
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Authors and period studied	Objective / General idea	Results
<p>Lee et al. (1995) 1950-1992</p>	<p>The important point of how to measure the oil price shock by a change in the given oil price differs from the historical pattern</p>	<p>Oil shocks have a great impact on the volatile environment.</p> <p>For growth rate output- The negative affect from oil price shock happened 4 quarters later, recovery after 6 quarters after the shock</p> <p>For Unemployment happened 4-8 quarters after the oil</p>
<p>Ferderer (1996) 1970-1990</p> <p>daily spot market oil prices</p>	<p>Asymmetry effects to economy from oil shock</p>	<p>Monetary policy has less impact on economic activity that volatility and oil price changes</p> <p>Oil price increases causing to have high volatility</p> <p>The industrial production use oil price volatility and the Federal funds rate to explain fluctuations that occur.</p> <p>Negative volatility has a significant impact on output growth, gain in output will happened 11 months later</p>

		Output growth has a significant impact after oil price changes about 12 months
Rotemberg and Woodford (1996) 1948-1980		<p>Output growth and real wages can explain the great effect of oil price change in the imperfectly competitive market.</p> <p>A 1% increase in oil prices results in a reduction in output of about -.25 percent after 5 - 7 quarters</p> <p>After 5 or 6 quarters after the oil price increase by 10%, real wages fall by 1%</p> <p>Second year after the oil price shock, it is more important in decline, in output, and real wages gains.</p>
Hooker (1996) 1948-1994	Proved the linear relation (Hamilton 1983) and the asymmetric relation (Mork 1989) between oil prices and output	<p><u>1948-1972:</u> 10% increase in oil prices caused the GDP growth rate to decrease by 0.6 % in the 3rd-4th quarters later</p> <p><u>1973-1994:</u> Oil prices can be used to predict unemployment and GDP growth. However, volatility can sometimes be used for predict of GDP growth</p>
Hamilton (1996) 1973-1994	Due to the oil price volatility since 1986, he tried to analyze oil price development (net oil price increase (NOPI))	During period from 1948 to 1994, relation between GDP growth and NOPI remains statistically significant
Hamilton (2000) 1949:1999		Oil price increases have a larger effect than oil price decreases. A long period of stable prices has a bigger impact than simply correcting previous decreases.

		From 1949 to 1980 a 10% increase in oil prices resulted, 4 quarters later, in GDP growth rate having dropped 1.4%.
Chaudhuri (2000) 1973-1996		Real oil prices have an influence on real commodity and may affect the primary commodity prices, even if oil is not being used directly in the production of those commodities.